



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA 180-9-2

SUBJECT: CPA – Planning and Technical Assistance for Equine Operations

Purpose: To provide guidance on planning and technical assistance to equine owners who have operations in Pennsylvania.

Expiration Date: December 31, 2009

Background: Equine operations across the state have increased in number, number of animals, and size of operation. Generally, due to a lack of knowledge of proper land, nutrient, and grazing management, a large number of operations have resource concerns that could be addressed in conservation programs, like EQIP.

An Equine workgroup was established (through a partnership initiative) to inventory common resource concerns, and develop strategies to treat those identified concerns. This team has looked at operations on all levels and developed a strategy and some tools to assist field staff in treating the identified resource concerns.

Direction: The current 2008 Farm Bill Programs are being rolled out and equine operations are encouraged to participate. These operations must meet the eligibility requirements for the selected program (i.e., either the producer criteria for EQIP, AMA, WHIP, CBWI, or the land ownership criteria (CRP)) and have documented resource concerns.

Equine operation owners and managers are often new participants with the USDA-NRCS and our conservation partners. Typical conservation practices will adequately treat the identified resource concerns, such as grass/forage stands, nutrient management, and erosion control; however, care should be taken in communicating with these producers. Keep in mind not all livestock recommendations are practical for equine operations, and some operators are more open to labor-intensive alternatives and progressive conservation measures.

Action: Field offices requiring training on working effectively with equine producers should contact Jana Malot, State Grassland Conservationist, to schedule a training date.

/s/ Craig R. Derickson

CRAIG R. DERICKSON
State Conservationist



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